

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 NEA-11 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /144 W

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R 250626Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0618

USUN NY 0456

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0962

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SEATO

SUBJECT: GVN REQUEST THAT SEATO CONSIDER PARACEL ISSUE

REF: STATE 015405

1. DURING CALL ON DFA (AMBASSADOR YANGCO, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION) JAN 24, EMBOFF REFERRED TO GVN REQUEST THAT SEATO CONSIDER PARACEL ISSUE AND DEPT'S VIEWS AGAINST SUCH CONSIDERATION. DFA SO FAR UNADVISED OF ISSUE AND AMBASSADOR YANGCO CONSEQUENTLY UNABLE TO COMMENT OFFICIALLY ON POSITION.

2. IN INFORMAL, OFF THE RECORD DISCUSSION, AMBASSADOR
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YANGCO EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT WITH US POSITION. HE PER-

SONALLY BELIEVED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO EXPRESS SOME FORMAL CONCERN ABOUT PRC'S ACTIONS. GOP DOES NOT, HE SAID, CLAIM PARACELS. BUT AS HE NOTED SUBSEQUENTLY,(1) PHILIPPINES DOES CLAIM "FREEDOMLAND" WHICH HE SAID WAS IN SPRATLY GROUP AND (2) GOP MAINTAINS PRESENCE THERE (BY IMPLICATION A MILITARY PRESENCE). MOREOVER, HE WAS DISTURBED THAT UNSC HAD FAILED TO ADOPT POSITIVE VIEW TOWARDS HEARING OF DISPUTE.

3. EMBOFF SUGGESTED SEATO WAS NOT EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION IN THIS PARTICULAR DISAGREEMENT, SINCE IT LACKED COMPETENCE TO DEAL WITH CONTESTED TERRITORY OF PARACELS AND DREW ON PARA 2 REFTEL TO AMPLIFY ARGUMENTATION. SHOULD NATIONS DESIRE TO CONVEY THEIR VIEWS TO CHINESE, MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS WOULD BE DIRECTLY AND INDIVIDUALLY OR THROUGH UN MECHANISM, FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY.

4. EMBASSY WILL LEAVE COPY OF GVN NOTE AND SUMMARY OF ARGUMENTS RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR YANGCO AS OUTLINED REFTEL ND WILL ADVISE SHOULD DFA MATTER FURTHER WITH EMBASSY.

5. COMMENT: GOP ALARMED BY PRC ACTION IN PARACELS BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY IT SEES THAT CONFRONTATION IN PARACELS COULD

EXTEND TO SPRATLYS. ALTHOUGH PUBLIC, OFFICIAL GOP POSITION IS THAT IT DOES NOT LAY CLAIM TO SPRATLYS, IT BEGAN TO ADVANCE STRONG CLAIM IN 1950'S TO ISLANDS IN SPRATLYS, IN-

CLUDING NANSHAN, FLAT AND THITU, WHICH IT CHOOSES TO CALL FREEDOMLAND AFTER "DISCOVERER" TOMAS CLOMA. GOP DID POSITION TROOPS THESE ISLANDS IN 1971; EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE WHETHER AND WHERE GOP PRESENCE IN THESE ISLANDS IS NOW LOCATED. WHILE YANGCO'S INITIAL REACTION ON SEATO QUESTION MAY NOT BE ULTIMATE GOP POSITION, WE SUSPECT THAT GOP DISTURBED AT NEUTRAL POSITION OF U.S. GOP WOULD PROBABLY PREFER SOME FORM OF COLLECTIVE AND PRE-EMPTIVE SEATO REMONSTRATION ON PARACELS, PREFERABLY US BACKED, TO BOOT-SHAKING PROSPECT OF HAVING TO FACE PRC ALONE AT SOME FUTURE DATE OVER SPRATLYS.

6. ACTION USUN: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ACCOUNT OF UNSC
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CONSULTATIONS ON PARACELS ISSUE.
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NNN

Message Attributes

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